

#### SUMMARY

**Selikhov D. A. Peasant banks of the Russian Empire as a specific form of small credit in the Ukrainian lands of 1861-1917 years: organizational and legal aspect.** The article analyzes the activities of this specific form of small loans as rural banks, the first of which were founded with the Cabinet of his imperial majesty in the first half of the nineteenth century. According to “Rural Bank Survey on Rural Banks” from the May 1, 1859, the capital of a bank was made with the help of the necessary number of people who joined the community and, as is known, later pertaining to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries when the capital of the rural bank was paid by the appropriate individuals, most of them were often local landowners. Unlike the savings and loan companies, whose main feature was the presence of a unit of a member of this cooperative, rural banks acted on a slightly different principle, providing certain amounts of loans secured by real estate, in which role was most often the land. Due to the fact that the peasants in their community did not have free funds to form credit accounts of such banks, their functioning was carried out rather poorly, which gave grounds for the specialists of credit business, as well as the general public in general, to recognize their work, unlike credit companies, as unsatisfactory. Thus, such banks did not play a significant role in lending to small agricultural producers in the Ukrainian lands of the Russian Empire. Only some banks that lent at 67% per annum could boast of their financial results. But this was not a rule, but rather an exception to it.

**Keywords:** *Russian Empire, Ukrainian lands, rural banks, peasants, credit.*